

REMARKS

This Request for Reconsideration is submitted in response to a Non-Final Office Action of March 31, 2011 in which claims 1, 3-26, 28, 30, 31, and 34 were rejected.

The Applicant is of opinion that the arguments presented in the Office Action of March 25, 2011 are not applicable as explained below.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Examiner's Position:

Claims 1, 7-8, 10-17, 19-24, 31 and 34, 11-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wille (US Patent 7,136,482), in view of Minematsu (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0022500).

Claims 3-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wille in view of Minematsu and further in view of Yamaki et al. (US Patent 7,067,731).

Claims 18 and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wille in view of Minematsu and further in view of Nagasawa (US Patent 6,707,908).

Claim 26 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wille in view of Nagasawa (US Patent 6,707,908).

Claims 9 and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wille in view of Minematsu and further in view of Yoon (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0052224).

Claim 30 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wille in view of Minematsu and further in view of Catto et al. (U.S. Patent No. 2002/0052224).

Applicant's Response:

The Applicant is of opinion that the Examiner's rejection is invalid. The present patent application is a National Stage of the PCT application PCT/IB2003/000536 (Publication WO2004/066653) filed on **January 17, 2003**. Therefore, the actual filing date of the present patent application is **January 17, 2003**. The filing date (which is also the earliest priority date) of the main reference Wille (US Patent 7,136,482), cited by the Examiner, is **October 26, 2004**. Therefore, the filing date of the present patent application is earlier than

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the filing date of Wille by almost 2 years. Thus, the reference of Wille is not applicable and the rejection of all currently pending claims in the Office Action of March 31, 2011 is not valid.

CONCLUSION

The objections and rejections of the Non-Final Office Action of March 31, 2011 having been shown to be inapplicable, withdrawal thereof is requested and passage of all claims to issue is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted:



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